

1. A surgical fastening assembly comprising:
an applicator including a loading tip;
a carrier assembly removably mounted within the loading tip;
a cannula having an inner diameter and an outer diameter, the cannula being
5 disposed within the carrier assembly; and
a surgical fastener disposed at least partially within the cannula such that a
predetermined distance is defined between the surgical fastener and the inner diameter of
the cannula, wherein at least a portion of the surgical fastener is in communication with a
fluid, and wherein the presence of the fluid defines a meniscus that induces a capillary force
10 between the surgical fastener and the inner diameter of the cannula.
2. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein the fluid is a biocompatible
hydrophobic fluid.
- 15 3. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein the predetermined distance is
selected to enable a clearance fit to be formed between the surgical fastener and the inner
diameter of the cannula.
4. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 3, wherein the predetermined distance is
20 between about 0.0025 inch and 0.006 inch.
5. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 4, wherein the predetermined distance is
about 0.003 inch.
- 25 6. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein the surgical fastener includes at
least one positive surface feature, and wherein the fluid is in communication with at least one
of the at least one positive surface feature.
7. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 6, wherein the presence of the at least one
30 positive surface feature reduces the predetermined distance by approximately 66% at the at
least one positive surface feature.

8. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein the surgical fastener is formed from a bioabsorbable material.

9. A method of introducing a surgical fastener into an implantation site, comprising the
5 steps of:

providing a surgical fastener;

providing a cannula having an inner diameter and an outer diameter;

placing fluid into communication with at least a portion of the surgical fastener;

at least partially introducing the surgical fastener into the cannula such that the

10 portion of the surgical fastener that is in communication with the fluid is disposed within the cannula and such that a predetermined distance is defined between the surgical fastener and the inner diameter of the cannula;

allowing the presence of the fluid to define a meniscus that induces a capillary force between the surgical fastener and the inner diameter of the cannula; and

15 causing the surgical fastener to be deployed from within the cannula and into an implantation site.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the fluid is a biocompatible hydrophobic fluid.

20 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined distance is selected to enable a clearance fit to be formed between the surgical fastener and the inner diameter of the cannula.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the predetermined distance is between about 0.0025 inch and 0.006 inch.

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13. The method of claim 12, wherein the predetermined distance is about 0.003 inch.

14. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 9, wherein the surgical fastener includes at least one positive surface feature, and wherein the fluid is in communication with at least one
30 of the at least one positive surface feature.

15. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 14, wherein the presence of the at least one positive surface feature reduces the predetermined distance by approximately 66% at the at least one positive surface feature.

5 16. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of placing fluid into communication with at least a portion of the surgical fastener is at least partially accomplished through the use of an applicator.

10 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the applicator is selected from the group consisting of a brush-type applicator and a spray-type applicator.

18. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of placing fluid into communication with at least a portion of the surgical fastener is at least partially accomplished through dipping the portion of the surgical fastener into a containment element that contains the fluid.

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19. The surgical fastening assembly of claim 9, wherein the surgical fastener is formed from a bioabsorbable material.